



District Parent Advisory Council

DPAC Pulse

February 2019

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"Intelligence plus character-that is the goal of true education."

-Martin Luther King Jr.

DPAC EXECUTIVE UPDATES

Next Stand Alone Nights

The DPAC Executive is pleased to announce our next events:

SCHOOL TRAFFIC SAFETY PRESENTATION:

- Date: Wednesday, March 13, 2019
- Time: 7:00- 8:30 p.m.
- Location: Gallery Room - Winslow Centre (1100 Winslow Avenue, Coquitlam)

Topics include: driving today, road rule refresher, police reporting, personal safety, pedestrian safety (walking to school), transit safety

The event is FREE, but we ask that you please register at <https://dpac43schooltrafficsafety2019.eventbrite.ca>

CHILDREN OF THE STREET SOCIETY PRESENTATION

Please save the date and place: April 11th at the Centennial School Theatre. Children of the Street Society is a provincial society and federal charity dedicated to preventing the sexual exploitation and human trafficking of children and youth in British Columbia through education strategies, public awareness initiatives, and family support since 1995. Details for registration to be announced.

MENTAL HEALTH FIRST AID NIGHT PRESENTATION

During May, we will have a Mental Health First Aid (MHFA) presentation. MHFA is the help provided to a person developing a mental health problem or experiencing a mental health crisis. Just as physical first aid is administered to an injured person before medical treatment can be obtained, MHFA is given until appropriate treatment is found or until the crisis is resolved. Details to be announced.

CONTACT US:

Do you have questions, comments, suggestions, or looking for a way to reach out to other PACs and their parents?

Please contact the DPAC at:

Ph: 604.939.3690 || Email: office@dpac43.ca || Web: www.dpac43.ca || 1100B Winslow Avenue, Coquitlam V3J 2G3

President's Corner

A message from DPAC President

Will you be my Valentine? That's the question of the day as I listen to the morning radio. But I'm not sure our children view this day the same as we once did. My son is in Grade four and for the first time, he didn't want to hand out valentines. Apparently, lots of his classmates felt the same way so the teacher's notes to parents this year involved a hybrid proposal "*bring cards if you want, or don't. Bring teats if you want, or don't.*" Yet, the floral shop was abuzz with purchasers last night, male and female, largely from the forty plus crowd. I recall decorating shoe boxes with fancy hearts, sparkles and ribbons to bring to school and shortly after lunch, opening up my box to find the numerous decorated cards and notes from each of my classmates. I suspect many mothers were up late those nights, like my own, so my classmates would all have fancy looking Valentine boxes and valentine cards for each of us. It makes you think about the traditional ways we do things and how they fluctuate with time.

As parents, many of our traditional views are being challenged with our school system lately. We have a number of new teachers in the system this past year due to the class and composition change. All teachers are re-working their lesson plans to meet the new curriculum requirements to focus on the core competencies. In the background, our administrators and the Education Ministry are struggling with the development of a new formula for the funding of our education system. Now this is a tricky situation! We aren't just talking about funding for one district, we're talking about planning a funding formula that fits the entire province. Oh, and we're talking dollars, big dollars, limited dollars.

We've had the same formula for more than a school generation so there is a traditional view with expectations. For some, it's working just fine so maybe it shouldn't change. For others, it's not working well at all, and supplemental funding is needed year after year. It all comes down to dollars and how those dollars are to be spread across the districts of the province. I may be a bit presumptuous here, but it seems to me that in our district we're in the "it's (mostly) fine, don't touch" camp. The current model allows our children funding for each class they choose to enroll in and per student supplemental funding for special education designations. This allows for opportunities to add band, choir and other electives to the course schedule and additional individual funding upon assessment and designation. Works great, don't change! But it works because we have students to fill those elective seats and a district that is trying to get assessments done at the earliest stage possible. This isn't so in every district. Outside of the urban areas, districts might prefer the proposed model of per student funding and prevalence based funding for special education designations. Basically that means funding a preset ratio of classes (I hear 8 per year per student) whether full enrollment in each class or not, and funding for special education designations based on average population data instead of requiring individual assessments. This makes sense if you live in a district where there aren't enough students to have electives like music, arts, leadership, technology and athletics, or without a resident psychologist to administer an educational assessment at district cost.

This is a big topic and a big discussion needs to take place, with your input! The Ministry has decided to delay implementation of their proposal to move to the prevalence model for further consultation. As well as the trustees, the teachers and the unions, parents are an important voice in that consultation. We're the voters. This will affect our children, their class sizes, their opportunities to direct their educational pathway. Like many of you, I can be open to change; tradition isn't going to fit everyone, but neither does wholesale change to another system. Maybe, like my son's grade four teacher proposed for Valentine's day, we need the Ministry to consider a hybrid funding model. Of course, it still needs to fit those limited dollars. So let your thoughts be known. There's a one year delay for consultation before changing to the proposed model. Will Minister Fleming be your Valentine next year?

Marvin Klassen

President DPAC43

BCCPAC Conference.

Empowerment through Knowledge and Sharing

BCCPAC invites you to join us for their annual full-day Spring Conference followed by a two day Annual General Meeting, taking place May 3-5, 2019 at the Pacific Gateway Hotel in Richmond.

The theme and content focus this year is "*Empowerment through Knowledge and Sharing*". BCCPAC strongly believes parents/guardians become more empowered for themselves and their children through a better understanding of all that encompasses "schooling and parenting" and by sharing what they learn and their experiences with their peers. More information at: <https://www.bccpac.bc.ca/>

Notes from DPAC Executive:

Become a DPAC Executive member! Volunteering as a DPAC Executive member is a way to give back to our community! It gives us a great sense of fulfillment when we make an impact on others. The next elections for all DPAC Executive members (except the President's position) will be during our General Meeting on May 29th, 2019.

Anything going on at your school? The DPAC website has a section dedicated to post your announcements! This is a great way to promote your events. Please send the information to the office, attention Laura at: office@dpac43.ca

*"Play is the highest form of research."
— Albert Einstein*

New Emails for DPAC EXECUTIVE

These are the emails for the 2018/2019 SD43 DPAC Executive.

Name	Position	Email address
Marvin Klassen	President	president@dpac43.ca
Charlie Loo	Vice President	vicepresident@dpac43.ca
Edward Ram	Treasurer	treasurer@dpac43.ca
Judi Zaklan	Secretary	secretary@dpac43.ca
Maria Ledezma	Newsletter/Website Editor	newsletter@dpac43.ca
Shari O'Neill	Parent Education Coordinator	parented@dpac43.ca
Hui Wang	Health and Safety Coordinator	healthandsafety@dpac43.ca
Teri Towner	Parent Communication Coordinator	communication@dpac43.ca
Gina Gonzalez	Member at Large	member1@dpac43.ca
Corrie Noble	Member at Large	member2@dpac43.ca
Lan Ti Tsai	Member at Large	member3@dpac43.ca
Helen Zeng	Member at Large	member4@dpac43.ca
Laura Code	Administrative Assistant/office	office@dpac43.ca

Next DPAC General Meeting - April 3rd, 2019

7:00 pm – 9:00 pm @ Winslow Centre, Gallery Room

“The mind once enlightened cannot again become dark.”

— Thomas Pain